



First Presbyterian Church of Athens

In response to God's grace, the mission of First Presbyterian Church is to create a community where people seek the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, rejoice in worship, and go forth sharing the love of Christ with Athens and the world!

November 21, 2021

8:45 and 11:00 a.m.

Reign of Christ

GATHERING IN THE NAME OF GOD

Welcome to all who are worshipping with us. As we enter a holy space this morning, please silence your cell phone. Consult an usher if you need a mask, personal hearing device, large-print bulletin or large-print hymnal.

Greeting

Psalm 118:24

This is the day the Lord has made; **let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

Prelude

Now Thank We All Our God

Johann Sebastian Bach

Words of Welcome and Concerns of the Church

11:00 a.m. Moment for Mission

Thornwell

Leslie Trier

Song of Gathering

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**From all that dwell below the skies
let the Creator's praise arise: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Let the Redeemer's name be sung
through every land, in every tongue.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Call to Worship

Come! Behold the reign of Christ,
**like the sun rising on a cloudless morning,
gleaming from the dew on the grassy land.**
Come! Behold the reign of Christ,
**a power that shall not pass away
and a love that will never be destroyed.**
We belong to the reign of Christ,
**the Alpha and Omega,
who was, and is, and is to come.**

***Hymn 551** *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come* ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

**O Holy One, you showed us what it means to live by your reign:
sharing food with the hungry, freedom with the imprisoned,
justice with the oppressed, and joy with the sorrowful. We ask
your forgiveness, O God, for all the ways we fail to live as people
who belong to your reign. Show us once more what our belonging
means, for you are the beginning, you are the end, and, in every
time between, you fill our lives with grace.**

**Those who are able may stand.*

Please sign and pass the Fellowship Pad, making note of new and old friends, check in on Facebook, and follow us on Instagram (firstpresathensga).

Despite its familiar Thanksgiving associations, the real concern of *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come* is to recall the harvest imagery Jesus used to describe the fulfillment of God's sovereignty. The tune is named after the royal chapel where the composer, George Job Elvey, was organist for forty-seven years.

***Assurance of Pardon**

***Congregational Response**

Hymn 579

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, Amen.**

***The Peace**

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.
The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
And also with you.

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson

John 8:12

This is the Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

11:00 Anthem

The Old Hundredth Psalm Tune

Ralph Vaughan Williams

All people that on earth do dwell, sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;
him serve with mirth, his praise forth tell, come ye before him and rejoice.
The Lord, ye know, is God indeed, without our aid he did us make;
we are his folk, he doth us feed, and for his sheep he doth us take.
O enter then his gates with praise, approach with joy his courts unto;
praise, laud, and bless his name always, for it is seemly so to do.
For why? the Lord our God is good: his mercy is forever sure;
his truth at all times firmly stood, and shall from age to age endure.
To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, the God whom heaven and earth adore,
from us and from the angel host be praise and glory evermore. Amen.

Second Lesson

Isaiah 9:1-7

This is the Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Isaiah: A Child Is Born

Dr. Ryan Baer

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn 414**

As Those of Old Their Firstfruits Brought

FOREST GREEN

***Affirmation of Faith**

The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God the Father almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy
kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, (cont.)**

The anthem is a setting
Psalm 100, arranged by
Ralph Vaughan Williams
for the Coronation of
Queen Elizabeth II in
Westminster Abbey in
1953.

*As Those of Old Their
Firstfruits Brought*, written
by a Presbyterian pastor
in California, expresses
the conviction that
being a good steward
is an essential part of
the Christian life, for
self-giving is God's own
nature.

Next to the Nicene
Creed, The Apostles'
Creed is the most
universally accepted
doctrinal statement in
Christendom. Although
not written by apostles,
it reflects the theological
formulations of the first
century church. Arising
from an early baptismal
creed, it underwent
development, attaining
its present form in the
eighth century.

as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the
power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Presentation of Our Tithes, Offerings, and Commitment Cards

Offertory

Forest Green

Craig Phillips

*Doxology

Hymn 592

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

SENDING IN THE NAME OF GOD

*Hymn 555

Now Thank We All Our God

NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

*Charge and Benediction

*Congregational Response

RANDOLPH

God be with you till we meet again;
loving counsels guide, uphold you,
with a shepherd's care enfold you:
God be with you till we meet again.

Postlude

Now Thank We All Our God

Egil Hovland

Texts and music for hymns and sung responses reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-714861

A special word of welcome to our guests: thank you for joining us for worship this morning. Please fill out the Fellowship Pad so that we may be in touch. We are delighted you are here and look forward to seeing you again.

Nurseries for children 4 years old and younger, available from 8:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., are located next to the Children's Ministry Suite and are accessible down the stairs in the Atrium and through the glass door. Our fully vaccinated nursery staff is excited to welcome our youngest members.

NOTES ON THE SERVICE

WORSHIP LEADERS

Dr. Ryan Baer, *Senior Pastor*

Dr. Carol Strickland, *Associate Pastor*

Dr. John Coble, *Director of Music and Organist*

Lay Reader

11:00 a.m. Dan Nadenicek

USHERS

8:45 a.m. Michelle Clendenen-Shaw,
Mary Peace

11:00 a.m. Jimbo LaBoon, Tom Landrum,
Lawton Stephens

GREETER

11:00 a.m. Carol McKay

AUDIOVISUAL TECHNICIANS

Bryan Owens, Jack Palmer

SUNDAY MORNING MANAGERS

Rebecca Carlton, Stephen Kreyenbuhl

FLOWERS

The flowers in the Sanctuary are given to the glory of God.

TO AID IN WORSHIP

If you need to leave the sanctuary during the service, a live video feed is available in the Atrium and at 11:00 a.m. is on Facebook and YouTube.

Available in the Narthex or from an usher:

- **Personal hearing receivers** usable anywhere in the sanctuary
- **Large-print** hymnals, Bibles, bulletins, and hymnsheets
- **Sermons** from the previous six weeks

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Prayer requests can be submitted to the church office, 706-543-4338, by the Prayer Request link on our church website (firstpresathens.org) or on the prayer cards in the Fellowship Pads.

You may mail your check, set up an automatic payment of your pledge through your bank, or donate online using this QR code or at firstpresathens.org/home/giving. Thank you for your generosity.



Please place your 2022 estimates of giving in the offering plate. Extra cards are in the Fellowship Pad.

Though often used on large and festive occasions, the first two stanzas of *Now Thank We All Our God* had humble beginnings as a family table prayer during the Thirty Years' War. The text has been associated this tune since the mid-17th century.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THORNWELL SPECIAL OFFERING TODAY, NOVEMBER 21

Your gift will help prevent child abuse and neglect, build up and reunite families, and support healthy communities in the name of Jesus Christ. Begun as an orphanage in Clinton, SC, Thornwell now has multi-faceted programs to help children including foster care, residential care, family services, and child development services. Please make your check to FPC with “Thornwell” noted on the bottom, or go to firstpresathens.org/home/giving/ (please select “Thornwell” under “Select a Fund”).

NAME BADGE PICK-UP

Pick up your name badge today in Fellowship Hall Breakout Room. This one is on the house, so please keep up with it and wear it when you come to church. You may want to keep it in your pocketbook, car’s glove box, or on your hall table where you will see it.

INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING WORSHIP, TODAY, 4:30 P.M.

All are invited to join our Athens friends and neighbors via Zoom (ID: 915 5259 8884, PW: gratitude) for this worship experience for all faith groups. The sponsor, Interfaith Clergy Partnership of Greater Athens, includes representatives of more than 50 congregations in the Athens area.

Stewardship Commitment Sunday Today

Psalm 24:1 says, “The earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it; the world, and those who live in it.” Everything we have and everything we are ultimately belongs to God, and on this Stewardship Commitment Sunday, we reflect God’s generosity committing some of what God has entrusted to us to the mission of the church in 2022. During the offering, please place your 2022 Estimate of Giving card in the plate. Thank you for your faithful generosity!

Be the Light - Outreach Opportunities

Holiday Benevolence Market – Instead of giving physical gifts to family and friends who don’t need another *thing*, choose *symbolic gifts* on the shopping list of 26 mostly local agencies. Do so in person 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., **December 5** in Fellowship Hall or by mail **by December 31**. See shopping list at tinyurl.com/FPChbm.

Casa Christmas – Aid Latino and Hispanic families with groceries or needed items **by December 12** via financial contribution* (\$45 suggested) for gift cards this year instead of food boxes.

Salvation Army Angel Tree – Brighten the life of a child by providing Christmas gifts. One hundred kids are reserved for FPC so sign up for one or more at tinyurl.com/FPCSAangeltree. Please bring your unwrapped gifts to FPC **by December 13**.

Holiday Meals on Wheels – Help cover the cost of one or more meals on Thanksgiving, Christmas, or New Years by making a financial contribution* **by December 31**.

Family Promise of Athens – Help us host homeless families at our church **December 19 – January 2**. To prepare a meal or to take a 3-hour or overnight on-call shift at church, sign up at tinyurl.com/FPChostweek. Safety protocols are in place. Contact Susan Boatwright at boatwright.susan@gmail.com or Jean Bock at jbock@bellsouth.net for more information.

* For financial contributions make your check to First Presbyterian Church and note cause in memo line, or give online at FirstPresAthens.org and select appropriate fund in drop-down menu.

THIS WEEK

Sunday, November 21, Stewardship Commitment Sunday

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, Dr. Ryan Baer preaching
- 9:45 a.m. Adult Sunday School and Kids in the Courtyard
- 10:40 a.m. Godly Play
- 3:00 p.m. Faith Formation Task Force, Staff Conference Room
- 4:00 p.m. Mission and Outreach Commission via Zoom
- 4:30 p.m. Interfaith Thanksgiving Worship via Zoom

Monday, November 22

- 2:00 p.m. Lay Caller Meeting via Zoom
- 5:30 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal, Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, November 23

- 7:00 a.m. Our Daily Bread Breakfast, First Baptist Church
- 11:30 a.m. Chair Yoga via Zoom (*Zoom ID: 558-324-3907, PW: 6136*)
- 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting
- 1:30 p.m. Knitting Purls, Parlor

Wednesday, November 24, Church Office Closes at Noon

Thursday, November 25, Thanksgiving Day Church Office Closed

- 10:00 a.m. Thanksgiving Holiday Meals on Wheels Delivery

Friday, November 26, Church Office Closed

Sunday, November 28, First Sunday of Advent

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Services, The Rev. Margaret Davis preaching
- 9:45 a.m. Adult Sunday School and Kids in the Courtyard
- 10:40 a.m. Godly Play
- 5:00 p.m. Middle School Youth Group
- 6:00 p.m. High School Youth Group

LOOKING AHEAD

December 2 - Downtown Parade of Lights Hospitality

December 5 - Holiday Benevolence Market

December 7 - Live Nativity

December 12 - Festival of Lessons & Carols, Night of Wonder

Live Nativity

December 7, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Join Weekday School families and friends for our 10th Annual Live Nativity from 6:00-8:00 p.m. on **Tuesday, December 7**. Making their appearance on the front steps of the church for a drive by will be the babe, the camel, donkey, sheep, Mary and Joseph, and, of course, the wisemen and shepherds. The Handbell Choir and guitarist Bob Burton will provide music, and Weekday School teachers will hand out ornament kits to be made at home. Anyone interested in participating as a character (no lines) or in set-up or clean-up, please contact Elaine Johnson at (706) 206-8180.

Bethlehem Ministry Annual Fund Drive and Online Auction

As a eventful year draws to a close in Haiti, Bethlehem Ministry is asking you to help through a donation to its Give Hope & Life Annual Fund Campaign. Information about the campaign is available in the narthex. Donations may be made at the Bethlehem Ministry website: bethlehemministry.org/. This year, as part of the Annual campaign, Bethlehem Ministry is sponsoring an online auction of merchandise, artwork, and services. The auction will be online, starting December 1 and ending December 6. Stay tuned for further information. If you have an item you would like to donate for the auction or a special skill you can share in person or via Zoom, please contact Carol McKay at 706.354.8604 or by email (carol_mckay@att.net).

EDUCATION – FAITH FORMATION

SUNDAYS FOR CHILDREN

Director of Children's Ministries: Natalie Bishop

Nursery Coordinator: Rita Raines

Children's Ministry Suite • Infants – 5th Grade

**For the safety of our children, we will continue Covid precautions of mask wearing, social distancing and utilizing our outdoor spaces as much as possible.*

Kids in the Courtyard, 9:45 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.

Children will learn and experience new ways of connecting with God outside in our lovely church courtyard. This special time together will be filled with different types of morning prayer, beautiful children's literature and Bible stories, and will conclude with a fun fellowship time and feast as we get ready for Godly Play.

Godly Play, 10:40 a.m.–12 noon

Children are invited to Godly Play during the 11:00 a.m. worship hour this fall. Godly Play is an innovative way of teaching and learning that helps children “discover” who God is rather than being “told” who God is. The structure and routine of Godly Play offers children a safe space to explore, connect, wonder, and worship God.

Nursery, 8:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Children will enjoy playtime, story time, and snack time with their church friends in the Nursery Playroom and outside on the playground.

SUNDAYS FOR YOUTH

Director of Youth Ministries: Kim Ness

Middle School Coordinator: Erin Osborne

The PIT (basement level) • 6th – 12th Grade

Sunday School 9:45 – 10:40 a.m.

This fall, youth will serve as leaders in Children's Ministry for Kids in the Courtyard. They will help with storytelling, feasting, and sharing love with our younger church members.

Youth Group

Taking advantage of the space outside the PIT and the lower parking garage, youth group will meet outside this Fall. Evenings will be filled with opportunities for fellowship and fun as we build our youth community. Using the Narrative Lectionary, we'll explore what it means to be an active, Christian teen in today's changing world.

Middle School Youth Group

5:00–6:00 p.m.

High School Youth Group

6:00–7:30 p.m. (dinner provided)

For more information on youth ministry, visit our website

www.fpcathenspit.com

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ADULTS

9:45–10:40 a.m.

IN PERSON ONLY

New Voices • Room 310

Discussion guided by *Women In the Bible*, by Jaime Clark-Soles.

Led by: Lewis Hudgins (lewisahudgins@gmail.com)

Parents in the PIT • The Pit

This new class is an invitation for parents of children and youth to come down to the PIT for a time of fellowship and support.

Coordinator: Kim Ness (kness@firstpresathens.org)

HYBRID (in person and over Zoom)

Del Dunn Christian Issues • Room 308

An in-depth study and discussion of scripture – with a chapter-by-chapter reading and discussion of Acts of the Apostles. Zoom and in-person.

Coordinator: Susan Landrum (slandrum@uga.edu)

Zoom ID: 875 216 0708, PW: 634175

Wayne F. Middendorf Men's Bible Class

Bride's Room, Tinsley Stern

Open and honest discussion in a nonjudgmental atmosphere about various aspects of Christianity.

Contacts: Ian Hardin (ianhardin1@gmail.com), Jim Scanlon (jjscanlon@yahoo.com)

Zoom ID: 883 5159 0923

Women's Bible Class • Room 301

Reading and discussion of the Gospel of Mark.

Contact: Wanda Wilcox (wwilcox@uga.edu)

Zoom ID: 813 2290 3374, PW: 459718

ON HOLD (stay tuned...)

Inquirers • Moses Waddel Room

Thoughtful introspection and lively group discussion covering contemporary issues and daily Christian living, with guest speakers or DVD studies. **The class will resume on a date to be announced.**

Facilitators: Carl Bergmann (cberg@ccrc.uga.edu), Carla Buss (cbuss@uga.edu), Larry Jones (lfjones@uga.edu)

W. D. Hooper • Room 309

The “oldest” Sunday School class at First Pres will continue to focus on a Bible Study format. **The class will resume on a date to be announced.**

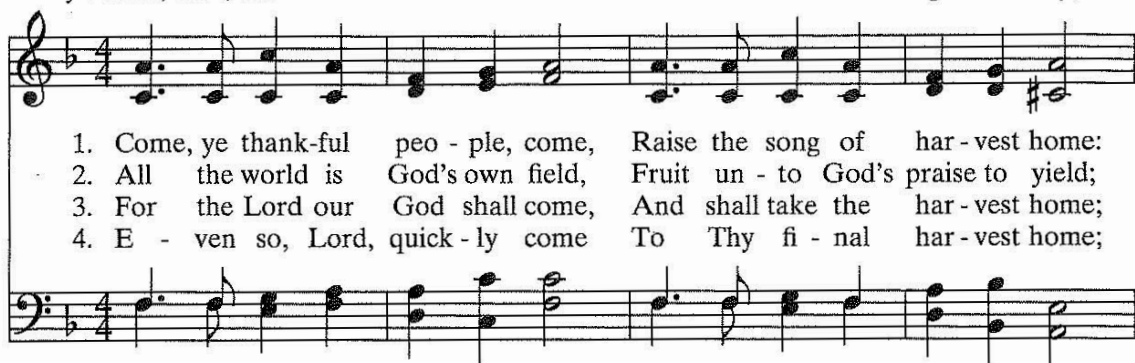
Led by: Jeris Hayes (jhayefirstpres@gmail.com), Richard Lane (rlane@uga.edu)

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

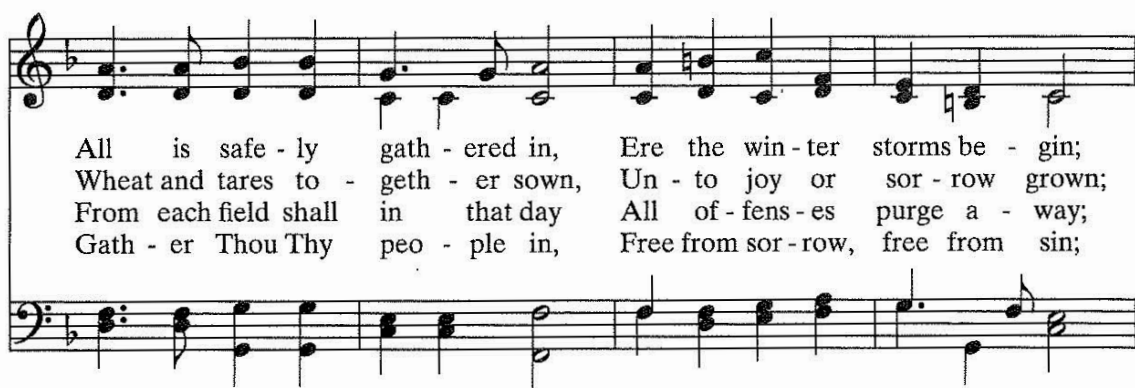
ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR 7.7.7.7 D

Henry Alford, 1844; alt.

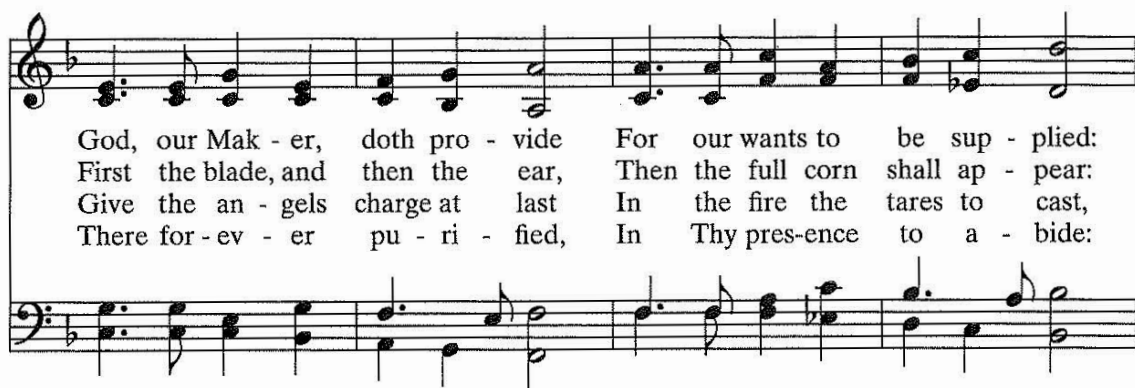
George Job Elvey, 1859



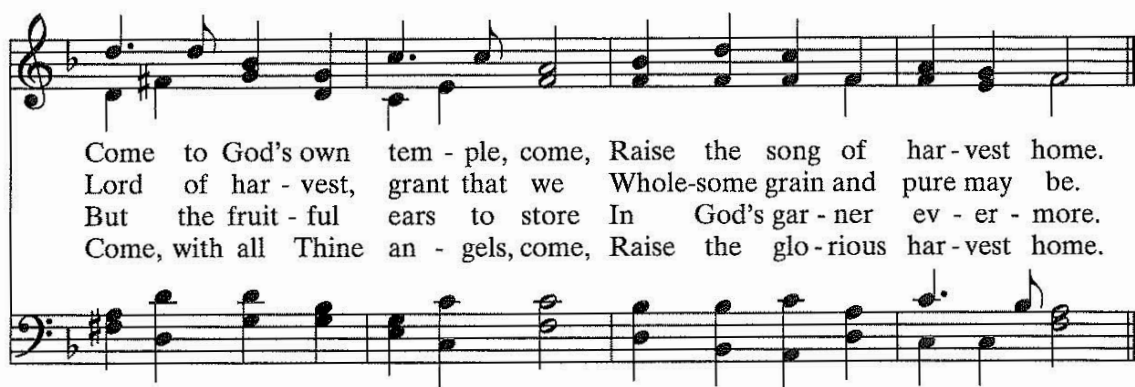
1. Come, ye thank-ful peo - ple, come, Raise the song of har - vest home:
 2. All the world is God's own field, Fruit un - to God's praise to yield;
 3. For the Lord our God shall come, And shall take the har - vest home;
 4. E - ven so, Lord, quick - ly come To Thy fi - nal har - vest home;



All is safe - ly gath - ered in, Ere the win - ter storms be - gin;
 Wheat and tares to - geth - er sown, Un - to joy or sor - row grown;
 From each field shall in that day All of - fens - es purge a - way;
 Gath - er Thou Thy peo - ple in, Free from sor - row, free from sin;



God, our Mak - er, doth pro - vide For our wants to be sup - plied:
 First the blade, and then the ear, Then the full corn shall ap - pear:
 Give the an - gels charge at last In the fire the tares to cast,
 There for - ev - er pu - ri - fied, In Thy pres - ence to a - bide:



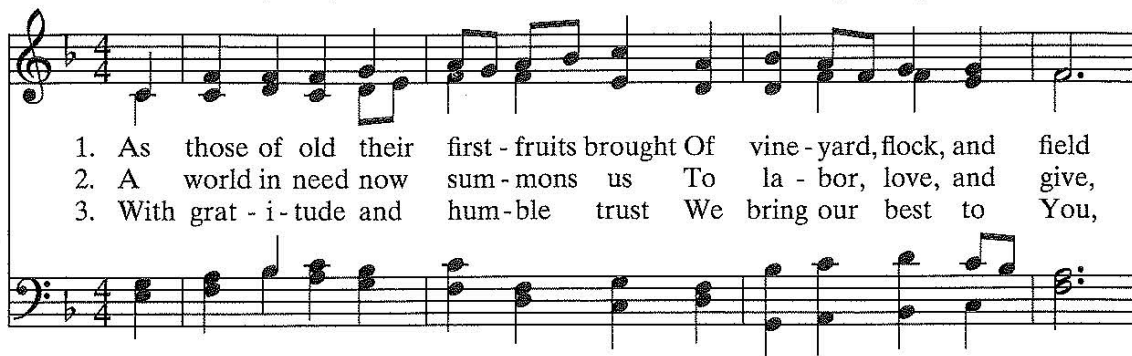
Come to God's own tem - ple, come, Raise the song of har - vest home.
 Lord of har - vest, grant that we Whole - some grain and pure may be.
 But the fruit - ful ears to store In God's gar - ner ev - er - more.
 Come, with all Thine an - gels, come, Raise the glo - rious har - vest home.

414 As Those of Old Their Firstfruits Brought

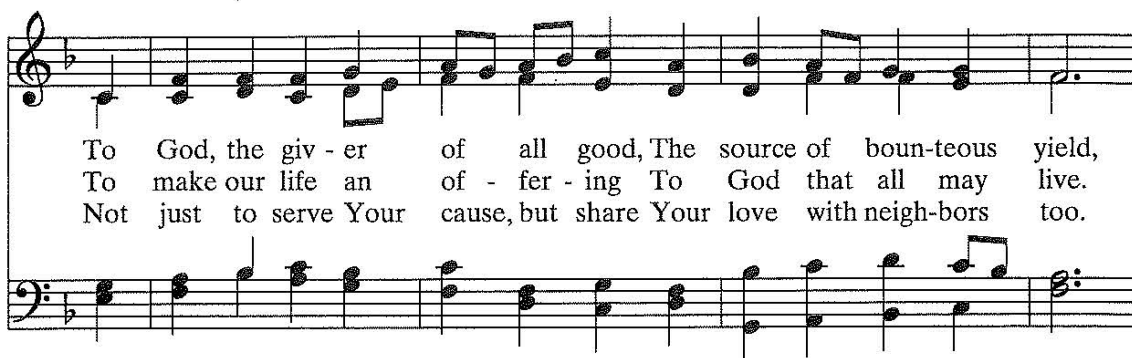
FOREST GREEN CMD

Frank von Christierson, 1960; alt.

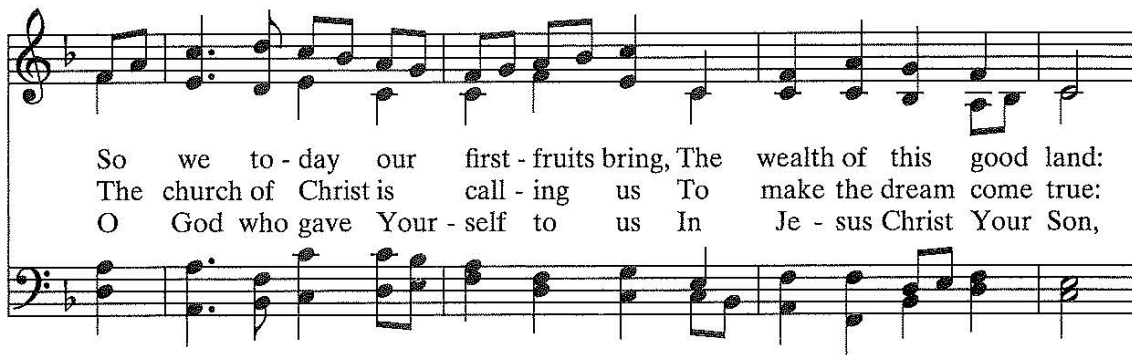
English folk melody
Arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906



1. As those of old their first - fruits brought Of vine - yard, flock, and field
2. A world in need now sum - mons us To la - bor, love, and give,
3. With grat - i - tude and hum - ble trust We bring our best to You,



To God, the giv - er of all good, The source of boun - teous yield,
To make our life an of - fer - ing To God that all may live.
Not just to serve Your cause, but share Your love with neigh - bors too.



So we to - day our first - fruits bring, The wealth of this good land:
The church of Christ is call - ing us To make the dream come true:
O God who gave Your - self to us In Je - sus Christ Your Son,



Of farm and mar - ket, shop and home, Of mind and heart and hand.
A world re - deemed by Christ - like love, All life in Christ made new.
Help us to give our - selves each day Un - til life's work is done.

Text: Copyright © 1961 by The Hymn Society of America, Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, TX 76129. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Music: Arrangement from the *English Hymnal*, 1906. Used by permission of Oxford University Press.

Now Thank We All Our God

NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT 6.7.6.7.6.6.6.6

Martin Rinkart, c. 1636

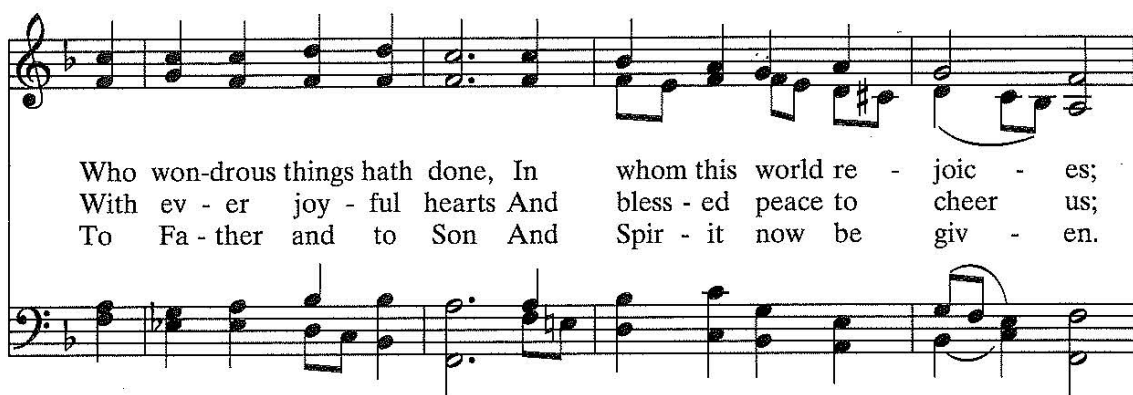
Trans. Catherine Winkworth, 1858; alt.

Stanza 3, *Rejoice in the Lord*, 1985

Johann Crüger, 1648

Harm. adapt. *Lobegesang*, Felix Mendelssohn, 1840


1. Now thank we all our God With heart and hands and voic - es,
 2. O may this boun - teous God Through all our life be near us,
 3. All praise and thanks to God, Who reigns in high - est heav - en,



Who won-drous things hath done, In whom this world re - joic - es;
 With ev - er joy - ful hearts And bless - ed peace to cheer us;
 To Fa - ther and to Son And Spir - it now be giv - en.



Who, from our moth - ers' arms, Hath blessed us on our way
 And keep us in God's grace, And guide us when per - plexed,
 The one e - ter - nal God, Whom heaven and earth a - dore,



With count-less gifts of love, And still is ours to - day.
 And free us from all ills In this world and the next.
 The God who was, and is, And shall be ev - er - more.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SESSION

Ryan Baer, Moderator Kitty Donnan, Clerk of Session
Carol Strickland, Associate Pastor

CLASS OF 2021

Jennifer Walden Abbott
Michelle Clendenen-Shaw
Elizabeth Earl
Ed Ferguson
Rob Haire
Grace Lu
Chris Pope
Mixon Robinson
Rosemary Stancil

CLASS OF 2022

Karen Burg
Kitty Donnan
Larry Jones
Andy Jordan
Jimbo LaBoon
Tom Landrum
Beverly Phares
Smith Wilson

CLASS OF 2023

Sarah Bryan
Judy Burch
Kent Burel
Rod Canfield
Melinda DeMaria
Jim Dove
Mark Hopkins
Matt Jones
Robyn McDonald
Keith Oelke

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Dr. Ryan Baer, *Senior Pastor* (ryan@firstpresathens.org)
Dr. Carol Strickland, *Associate Pastor* (cstrickland@firstpresathens.org)
The Rev. Margaret Davis, *Parish Associate* (margaret@firstpresathens.org)
Dr. John Coble, *Director of Music and Organist* (jcoble@firstpresathens.org)
Mrs. Kim Ness, *Director of Youth Ministries* (kness@firstpresathens.org)
Mrs. Natalie Bishop, *Director of Children's Ministries* (natalie@firstpresathens.org)
Mrs. Elaine Johnson, *Director of Weekday School* (elaine@firstpresathens.org)
Mr. Roger Burbage, *Church Administrator* (rburbage@firstpresathens.org)
Mrs. Lucy Bell Johnson, *Administrative Assistant for Congregational Care & Membership* (lbell@firstpresathens.org)
Mr. Paulo Santos, *Communications Specialist* (paulo@firstpresathens.org)
Mrs. Jennifer Sunderlin, *Receptionist/Administrative Assistant* (frontdesk@firstpresathens.org)
Mrs. Angie Townsend, *Accountant* (angie@firstpresathens.org)
Mrs. Marcy Fabris, *Weekday School Administrative Assistant* (wds@firstpresathens.org)
Ms. Rita Raines, *Nursery Coordinator*
Mrs. Charlotte Chromiak, *Children's Music Assistant* (charlotteposs@gmail.com)
Mrs. Madeline Van Dyck, *Parish Nurse*